

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4235

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 927

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0865

E.O. 652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SF, WA

SUBJECT: SAG ATTITUDES TOWARD SWAPO

REF: LONDON 15692 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL ASKED "WHETHER SAG HAS MADE UP ITS MIND WHETHER OR NOT TO DEAL WITH EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES OF SWAPO IN ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH NAMIBIAN REPRESENTATIVES."

2. SAG'S PUBLIC AND PRIVATE POSITION (SEE EXDIS CAPE TOWN 858 FOR RECENT REAFFIRMATION) IS THAT IT HAS NO INTENTION OF DEALING WITH SWAPO-IN-EXILE. FURTHER, SAG HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE PLANS TO CONSULT WITH SWAPO-IN-NAMIBIA AS A POLITICAL ENTITY. GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IS THAT SWAPO IS NOT RPT NOT ILLEGAL AND THAT ITS CANDIDATES ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN JANUARY 1975 ELECTIONS FOR OVAMBO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WHICH IN TURN WILL SELECT REPRESENTATIVES FOR PROPOSED MULTIRACIAL TALKS. NEITHER SWAPO GROUP HAS ACCEPTED SAG OFFER OF PARTICIPATION IN OVAMBO ELECTIONS, ALTHOUGH SOME INDIVIDUALS RUNNING FOR ELECTION CLAIM TO BE SWAPO MEMBERS.

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3. SWAPO EXILES, ESPECIALLY SAM NUJOMA, SEEM ANATHEMA TO

SAG, WHICH IS RESENTFULLY AWARE OF EXTENT TO WHICH THEY HAVE GAINED OAU AND UN ACCEPTANCE AS BEING REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIA AS A WHOLE. SINCE THERE IS CLEARLY SOME QUESTION OF HOW MUCH SUPPORT SWAPO HAS IN NAMIBIA OUTSIDE THE OWAMBO TRIBE, SAG STILL FEELS JUSTIFIED IN REFUSING TO REGARD SWAPO AS ANYTHING BUT A FACTION WITHIN THE OVAMBO PEOPLE. FACT OF OWAMBO NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY IS INMATERIAL TO SAG SINCE, IN ORDER NOT TO SUBORDINATE WHITE VIEWS, IT REGARDS NAMIBIA AS HAVING SEVERAL POPULATIONS (PLURAL), NOT ONE, AND INSISTS THAT EACH "PEOPLE" OR "VOLK" (READ ETHNIC GROUP) MUST HAVE A SAY IN THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE. AS LONG AS SWAPO-IN-NAMIBIA CONTINUES TO BOYCOTT OWAMBO ELECTIONS, SAG CAN ALSO RATIONALIZE REFUSING TO DEAL WITH SWAPO AS REPRESENTATIVE EVEN OF OWAMBOS.

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